

1	2	3
(5) Project for coconut plantation on canal embankment in Orissa	70.24	70.24
(6) Project for promotion of Primary processing and marketing activities	24.20	3.00
(7) Project for establishment of coconut technological development centres	10.10	—
(8) Setting up of Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farm for Coconut at Mandya in Karnataka	18.225	—
(9) Project for providing assistance for irrigation facilities to coconut growers	29.604	3.00
(10) Removal of root-wilt in Tamil Nadu	14.40	—

Commissioning of TV Station at Ratnagiri

1607. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the T.V. Station at Ratnagiri will be commissioned ;

(b) whether it will be full-fledged station or only relaying unit ; and

(c) the cost likely to be involved for this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) There is no approved scheme at present to set up a TV Centre at Ratnagiri.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise.

Public Distribution System

1608. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the physical objectives for the Public Distribution System in the Sixth Five Year Plan in respect of coverage of families per Fair Price Shop;

(b) number of items to be distributed viz., staple food items, kerosene, sugar etc. ;

(c) what has been the short-fall in achieving the targets of the Public Distribution System in the Sixth Five Year Plan and reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to achieve the full projected targets of Public Distribution System to make up the shortfall and accelerating the progress ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) In the Sixth Five Year Plan it was mentioned that the total number of fair price shops including private outlets in the country was proposed to be increased from 2.50 lakhs to 3.50 lakhs by the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan. Accordingly, the Central Government has been requesting States/Union Territories to establish more and more fair price shops so as to achieve the norm of one fair price shop for every 2000

persons. In the case of difficult, hilly and sparsely populated areas this norm can be relaxed and a fair price shop for less than 2000 persons can also be considered.

(b) There are seven items included in the Public Distribution System for procurement and supply of which the Central Government has assumed responsibility. They include wheat, rice, sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth. The States/Union Territories are free to add any items in the Public Distribution System of their State/Union Territory by making their own arrangements for the procurement and supply of such additional items.

(c) and (d) : The number of fair price shops has increased from 2,39,204 in 1979 to 3,11,374 in October, 1984. The Central Government monitors the progress of expansion of fair price shops through correspondence, meetings and visits of officers to various States. Besides these steps, the working of the Public Distribution System is also reviewed by an Advisory Council presided over by Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and including Ministers for Food and Civil Supplies of States/Union Territories as Members of this Council. In these meetings, Difficulties and problems of each State/Union Territory in regard to the Public Distribution System are discussed and decisions are made to solve them.

Publishing of Employment News in Oriya Language

1609. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the regional languages in which the employment news is presently published;

(b) whether there is any proposal to publish the same in Oriya language ; and

(c) if so, when will it materialise and from which place it will be published ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) "Employment News" is presently published in Hindi and Urdu with title "Rozgar Samachar" and in English. It is not published in any other regional language.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Exemption for State Industries in West Bengal from the Purview of ESIC Act

1610. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives from West Bengal Industry, Trade Unions and the State Government unanimously resolved at the Regional ESI Board meeting held in Calcutta on 4 March, 1985 to seek an exemption for State industries from the purview of the new amendment of the ESIC act; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) It has been reported that the matter had figured at the meeting of the Regional Board of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for West Bengal held on 4th March, 1985. The minutes of the meeting are, however, still awaited.

(b) Does not arise.